GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2250
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007
AGENTS IN POST OFFICES
Gudhe Shri Anantrao

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of consumers being entrapped by the Recurring Deposit agents in post offices have come to light;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action being taken against these corrupt agents and officials colluding with them;

(d) whether the Government proposes to reimburse the money of the Recuring Deposit (RD) amount deposited by consumers to these agents;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the number of such cases reported so far, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Cases of defrauding the depositors of Recurring Deposit Accounts of Post Office Savings Bank by Mahila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojna (MPKBY) Agents have been noticed.

(b) Total 85 cases as in (a) above, have been detected in various Post Offices of the Country. Three types of frauds are noticed viz.
(i) the amount was collected by the MPKBY Agents from the depositors but not credited in the Post Office,
(ii) the amount was shown as deposited by falsification of records like making entries and impressing postal stamps in pass books in collusion with postal employees, and
(iii) misusing the blank withdrawal forms got deceitfully signed from depositors while opening the account, or forging signatures of depositors to get maturity/premature closure amounts.

(c) The agency sanctioning authorities i.e. the Small Savings Authorities of State Governments are asked to cancel the agencies of errant MPKBY Agents. The cases are also reported to police. Disciplinary action is also taken against the postal officials involved for their complicity.

(d) & (e) In cases where the authenticated entries of deposits are produced by the depositors establishing entrustment of deposits to the post office, justified claims of the defrauded depositors are settled. In absence of any such proof, the Department of Posts is not liable for reimbursement of money given by depositors to the MPKBY Agents.

(f) State-wise details of the number of such cases reported is given in the Annexure.